A Perfect

ACCOUNT

Of the

Taking and Burning

THE

STRONG POSTS

OF

Bodegrave, Swammerdam, Newerbrug, &c.
in *Holland*, by the *French*, under the Command of
the Duke of *Luxemburg*, Governour for His moſt

CHRISTIAN MAJESTY

Of the City and Province of *UTRECHT.*

As it came in a Letter from the ſaid Duke.

Together with a larger Narrative of the particular Paſſages and Circumſtances of that Action.

Out of French.

Publiſhed by Authority.

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The Duke of *LUXEMBURG'S* LETTER,

Dated at *Utrecht*, 3 *Jan.* 167$\frac{2}{3}$.

MY departure from this place, immediately upon the Receipt of your Letter of the Nineteenth paſt, hindred me from returning you an Anſwer; and I was then preparing my ſelf for the little Sally I have made out into *Holland*, having no more time left me then was juſt neceſſary to execute my deſign; we have effected it very happily, and if the Thaw had not come juſt at that time, we had certainly burnt the *Hague*, as done perhaps ſomething elſe; we onely failed in point of the ſeaſon, of which we are not Maſters: We are come, and perhaps you have already heard, from viſiting the Enemies Camp at *Bodegrave*, where we forced Five Regiments of Foot out of the Village of *Swammerdam*, which was an incomparable Poſt, and might have held good againſt a whole Army; afterwards we made our ſelves Maſters of the Fort of *Niverbroug*, a Peice of Fortification the Prince of *Orange* ſpent all the laſt Summer in making; and of, I know not, how many other Works and Paliſadoes, the Enemy had made upon the ſame Dike: And all this coſt us not above 40 or 50 Men.

We have burnt the Town of *Bodegrave*, conſiſting of 700 Houſes, that of *Swammerdam* of about 400 Houſes; and all

the other Buildings on both ſides the Dike, from *Niverbrug*, as far as *Goudeſluys*; the people thereabouts ſay there are 3000 Houſes deſtroyed, for my part I do not believe ſo many, but I dare aſſure you 2000 at the leaſt, in which number were ſeveral that might be called little Caſtles, and all of them well furniſhed with Goods and Houſholdſtuff; ſo that upon eſtimation, the loſs will be found to amount to a very great ſum of Money. We have burnt beſides, Thirty two large Veſſels laden with Cheeſe, Butter, Strong-Waters, Wheat, and ſuch like Proviſions: Of Five Frigats we found there, we burnt two, and brought away the reſt; together with Twenty Pieces of Cannon, Twelve Braſs and Eight Iron, that were in the Fort.

This is the greateſt part of what we did in this Expedition, where every one behaved himſelf ſo well, that a Poor Commander in cheif is not like to gain much Honor by the occaſion.

We marched Nineteen hours a foot in the Thaw; where our Horſes could not go, ſeveral of our company fell in up to the Neck, and amongſt others Monſieur *de Bonflot*, and the Marqueſs *de Coeuures*. Lieutenant Colonel *Douglas* his adventure was ſomething extraordinary, for ſlipping into the Ice, his feet happily touched the Ground, and he bounded up again with ſo much force, that he broke the Ice with his head four paces from the place where he fell in, and ſo was drawn out at the ſame hole he had made with his head.

A RELATION

Of what paſſed in the Expedition at Swammerdam, Bodegrave, *&c. in* Holland.

THe Duke of *Luxemburgh* having reſolved ſome time ſince to undertake ſome conſiderable Enterprize as ſoon as the Ice would give him leave to paſs the Waters the Countrey lies under, and obſerving it to freeze three days together, towards the latter end of *December*, ſent Orders to all places in his Government, for the ſending 300 men out of every Regiment; which was accordingly done, and that number drawn out of the Regiments of *Picardy*, *Piemont*, *Navarre*, *Normandy*, *Champagne*, *Auvergne*, *Caſtelnau*, *Lionnois*; out of *Hamilton's*, *Magalottey's*, and *Stoup's* Regiments of *Swiſſes*, and all the other Bodies of Foot, with 200 Dragoons. The 27. in the morning, after he had heard Maſs with his Officers, he parted for *Woerden*, which was the place appointed for the Rendezvous, where he arrived the ſame day, and went from thence again about 11. of the clock that night, marching with his Forces in order of Battel as much as the ground would ſuffer them, along two Dikes, making every man keep his Rank exactly, from the *Meſtre de Camp* to the meaneſt Soldier; after a little while they paſſed over a great Canal, that was not well froze over, where three Horſes and one Valet fell in: and whereas they marched before on two Dikes, they were then forced to march onely upon one.

They continued their march till two hours after noon, upon the water frozen over. Near *Swammerdam* they came to two Canals, where the Enemy had broke the Ice; which obliged them to make ready instantly two Bridges to pass over the Army, which consisted of 9000 men, being all Foot, not so much as one Officer, nor the General himself had a Horse. Here he made an halt for an hour and half, to give the Soldiers leave to dry themselves a little, for they were most of them wet, and their Officers too, many of them having fallen into the Canalls, and all generally inconvenienced with the water, caused by a great Thaw, which began as soon as they went from *Woerden*, a great Snow falling, and continuing all night, and all the next day, so that the water, where shalloweſt, was up to the middle leg. Being gotten within a quarter of a league of *Swammerdam*, upon the Dike of *Holland*, news was brought them, that the Enemy intended to oppose the progress, which obliged the Duke of *Luxemburgh* to call a Councel of his principal Officers; and after he had remonstrated unto them in a short Discourse, how easie the Design was they were going about, considering the number and quality of their Forces, he dismissed every man to his Post, and gave command for the sending out of those Companies that were to give the first On-set; the Officers giving all hopes that they would acquit themselves bravely of that Employ. The Count *de Saulx* led on the first Party that was drawn out, consisting of 40 Grenadiers, who were commanded by Monsieur *Capestan*, Captain Grenadier of the same Regiment. The second Party was conducted by the Marquess *de Maully*, consisting of the like number of Grenadiers of the Regiment of *Picardy*, under the command of Captain *Bargade*, Captain Grenadier. They marched upon two Dikes, on both sides the great Canal, the Marquess *de Saulx* on the Right, and the Marquess *de Maully* on the Left, keeping always even with one another.

They found two or three Barricades made cross the Dike, and several Turn-pikes: But the vigour of the Grenadiers, and the continual fire made by those that were to back them, opened the passage. Monsieur *de Maully* went then to the Right, and Monsieur *de Saulx* to the Left, and were followed immediately by the Duke *de Luxemburgh* with all his Domesticks. In this order they advanced as far as the Gate of *Swammerdam*, where they were forced to stand all the fire of the Town, where there were

were entrenched five Regiments of *Palacren* behind a great Channel; they followed the Dike that ran parallel with the Canal, and led directly to the Town, where they found the Draw-bridges drawn up, ſo that they were fain to paſs over upon Planks and Hurdles; the Party under the Command of the C. *de Saulx*, and the D. of *Luxemburg*, being entred the Town, and the Regiment of *Picardy* commanded by Mr. *de Maully*, that had fetch'd a compaſs farther about, coming up to them at the ſame time, they advanced all in a Body, with their Swords in their hands, towards the Enemy; and notwithſtanding all the fire and reſiſtance they could make, made themſelves Maſters of half the Town, which was divided in two by a large Canal, and hard to paſs: the Draw-bridge that joyned both parts being broken down, the Duke *de Luxemburgh* commanded the Regiment of *Picardy* to enter on the Right, to charge them on that ſide, who ſhot continually at the Aſſaulters, and to facilitate the making a Bridge over the Canal, which was in a ſhort time effected, in ſpight of all the Enemies fire, who ſhot at them continually on both ſides the Bridge, and from two Frigates that they had put Soldiers into for the defence of the paſſage. As ſoon as the Bridge was made, they fell to boarding the Frigates, where there were 40 men placed, 30 of which were kill'd in defending them, and the reſt taken priſoners.

The *French* marched on to the Market-place, where they ranked their men 50 on a Breaſt, and ſo moved forward to the Church, where a Body of the Enemy had entrench'd themſelves; who were ſoon routed by the Grenadiers, and the moſt part of them were kill'd at the Church doors, and the reſt made priſoners. They followed their ſtroke, and forced the Enemy a good quarter of a league beyond the Village, to the very Sluces of *Goude*; and when none of them were left in ſight, the Duke of *Luxemburg* commanded a March to be beaten, and the Army to take the way to *Bodegrave*, leaving the Marquis *de Genlis* with a good Body of men to make the Rear-guard, with command to burn the Frigats, and all the Houſes on both ſides the Canal; which was ſpeedily executed.

At their approach towards *Bodegrave*, news was brought that 2000 of the Enemy were gotten together, and made as if they intended to make ſome further reſiſtance; but upon the appearance of the foremoſt Troops, they thought fit to withdraw without ſtriking a ſtroke. The whole Army lodged there, and at the ſame time ſome were ſent out to view a ſtrong

Flank

Flank of Three Redouts, which were all carried the next morning: And although there were 1500 Men, and 10 pieces of Artillery in the Fort, they prevented our attacking them, and we entred without resistance; we placed a Garison there, and stayed there all the next day.

The next night we had advice, that the Enemy was retired to *Swammerdam*, and had fortified themselves in the Church, which was left unburnt, which obliged the Duke of *Luxemburg*, taking with him 2000 Men, to go directly thither; Monsieur *de Genlis* in the mean time making it his business to demolish the Forts; they pursued the Enemy as far as the Sluyces of *Goude*, who in their Retreat broke down a Bridge over a very large Canal, which hindred the French from following them any farther; yet they stood and saw the Regiment under the Command of the Marquess *de Meilleray* burn Thirty five of their Vessels that were on the otherside of the Water, before their faces: These Vessels were laden with Butter, Cheese, Wheat, Flower, Salt, Strong-Waters, Wine, Beer, Powder, Bullets, Match, and other Provisions and Ammunition for the subsistance and convenience of the Dutch Army.

All the Houses and Mills for a quarter of a League from the Canal on both sides, from *Bodegrave* as far as *Goude Sluys*, are quite burnt to the Ground, the French setting fire to all things they came at in their Retreat.

The next day at Five a Clock in the morning, the whole Army marched away from *Bodegrave*; Lieutenant Colonel *de Stoup*, who commanded the *Arriere-Garde*, burnt whatever remained undestroyed in the Armies way.

'Tis supposed upon a just account, that there were burnt 2000 Houses in the Two Villages of *Swammerdam* and *Bodegrave*, in other Villages, and on the sides of the Canal, as far as *Woerden*, where the Foot were embarked to return to *Utrecht*, with Twenty Pieces of Cannon, Thirteen Brass, and Seven Iron.

The loss, occasioned by this Expedition, to particular persons, is counted to amount to some Millions, and has cost us but Twenty Men. The Gentleman of the Horse to the Count *de Saulx* was wounded in the Shoulder with a Musket shot, and one of his Pages in the Thigh, 350 of the Enemies were either kill'd, or taken prisoners.

FINIS.